

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A device for cleaning a landscape surface that is directly exposed to the atmosphere, comprising

a. a conduit system with an intake portion and an outlet portion in direct fluid communication with each other; the outlet portion including a conduit that has a smaller inner diameter than the inner diameter of the intake portion, the outlet portion configured for attachment to a vacuum source, [and] the intake portion having a distal end with an intake opening through which landscape material can be drawn into the intake portion from the surface of the landscape, and the intake portion having a substantially constant cross section area from the intake opening to the outlet portion,

b. the conduit system being configured to (i) enable the intake portion to be held in a downward orientation toward the surface of the landscape with the intake opening disposed against the surface of the landscape, (ii) allow atmospheric air that is about the landscape surface, landscape rock, dirt and debris to be drawn into the intake portion and transmitted through the outlet portion while retarding transmission of landscape rock from the intake portion through the outlet portion, and (iii) provide a pressure state within the intake portion such that when the intake portion is lifted off the surface of the landscape, the landscape rock in the intake portion will be deposited on the surface of the landscape.

Claim 2 (original). A device as defined in claim 1, wherein the intake portion extends at a predetermined angle to at least part of the outlet portion.

Claim 3 (original). A device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the angle between the intake portion and the part of the outlet portion is not more than 135 degrees.

Claim 4 (original). A device as defined in claim 2, wherein the angle between the intake portion and the part of the outlet portion is from 75 to 135 degrees.

Claim 5 (original). A device as defined in claim 2, wherein the angle between the intake portion and the part of the outlet portion is from 90 to 105 degrees.

Claim 6 (original). A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the angle between the intake and outlet portions is about 90 degrees.

Claim 7 (concurrently amended). A device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the cleaning device is configured such that the intake portion can be lifted vertically with respect to the landscape surface, and includes a pair of handles located to (i) enable the intake portion to be oriented vertically at about 90 degrees with respect to a landscape surface with the intake opening disposed against the landscape surface, and (ii) enable the intake portion to be lifted vertically with respect to the landscape surface.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the intake portion is coupled to a head assembly, and the outlet portion is monolithically formed in one piece with the head assembly.

Claim 10 (currently amended). A device as set forth in claim 9, wherein the outlet portion comprises an elbow shaped conduit monolithically formed in one piece with the head assembly.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A device as set forth in claim 10 further including at least one handle monolithically formed in one piece with the head assembly.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended). A method for cleaning a landscape surface that is directly exposed to the atmosphere of dirt and debris while enabling landscape rock to remain a part of the landscape surface comprising the steps of (a) providing a cleaning device configured for

attachment to a vacuum source, the device having a conduit system with an intake portion and an outlet portion in fluid communication with each other, the intake portion having a distal end with an intake opening through which atmospheric air that is about the landscape surface, landscape material that includes dirt and/or debris and landscape rock can be drawn into the intake portion, the intake and outlet portions configured to (i) enable the intake portion to be held in a downward orientation with the opening disposed closely on top of the landscape surface so that the vacuum in the intake portion draws atmospheric air that is about the landscape surface, landscape material which includes dirt and/or debris and landscape rock from the landscape surface into the intake portion, and (ii) resist landscape rock from passing through the outlet portion (b) attaching the outlet portion to a vacuum source, providing a vacuum in the outlet portion and holding the cleaning device with the intake portion extending downward to the landscape surface so that the opening contacts the landscape surface, and maintaining the intake portion in the downward orientation with the opening in contact with the landscape surface for a period sufficient to draw air that is about the landscape surface, dirt and/or debris and some landscape rock from the landscape surface into the intake portion, and (c) lifting the intake portion off the landscape surface landscape in a manner that allows the pressure state in the conduit system to cause landscape rock in the intake portion to be redeposited in situ on the landscape surface.

Claim 14 (original). A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the intake portion is lifted vertically off the landscape surface.

Claim 15 (original). A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the intake portion is disposed at a predetermined angle to at least part of the outlet portion, and the outlet portion comprises a conduit with an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the intake portion.

Claim 16 (original). A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the intake portion is disposed at a predetermined angle to at least part of the outlet portion, and the outlet portion comprises a conduit with an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the intake portion.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the intake portion is oriented at about 90 degrees to the landscape surface as the atmospheric air from about the landscape surface, dirt and/or debris and landscape rock are drawn into the intake portion.

Claim 18. (currently amended). A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the intake portion is disposed at a predetermined angle to at least part of the outlet portion, [and] the outlet portion comprises a conduit with an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the intake

portion, and a pair of handles are connected with the intake portion in a configuration that enables an operator to grasp both handles and manipulate the intake portion to a position in which the intake portion is located on the landscape surface at an orientation of about 90 degrees to the landscape surface and to lift the intake portion vertically with respect to the landscape surface.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously submitted) A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outlet portion is disposed in a head assembly configured for attachment to the intake portion with the outlet portion in direct fluid communication with the inlet portion.

Claim 21 (new). A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the step of providing a cleaning device consists essentially of

a. providing a conduit system consisting essentially of an intake portion and an outlet portion in direct fluid communication with each other; the outlet portion including a conduit that has a smaller inner diameter than the inner diameter of the intake portion, the outlet portion disposed in a head assembly configured for attachment to the intake portion with the outlet portion in direct fluid communication with the inlet portion, the outlet portion configured for attachment to a vacuum source and the intake portion having a distal end with an intake opening through which landscape material can be drawn into the intake portion from the surface of the landscape

b. the conduit system being configured to (i) enable the intake portion to be held in a downward orientation toward the surface of the landscape with the intake opening disposed against the surface of the landscape, (ii) allow atmospheric air from about the landscape surface, landscape rock, dirt and debris to be drawn into the intake portion and transmitted through the outlet portion while retarding transmission of landscape rock from the intake portion through the outlet portion, and (iii) provide a pressure state within the intake portion such that when the intake portion is lifted off the surface of the landscape, the landscape rock in the intake portion will be deposited on the surface of the landscape.